

REMARKS

In the Office action, claims 3 and 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as not further limiting claim 1; and claims 1-5 and 8 were rejected as being unpatentable over German reference 4,211,498 in view of Kreidel '217.

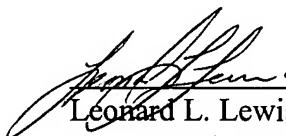
As to the Section 112 rejections, the dependent claims have been amended to define the two ferrule tube fitting, and it is respectfully submitted that the claims now meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

As to the rejections on the merits, reconsideration is respectfully requested. Applicants have obtained an uncertified translation of the German reference, a copy of which is enclosed in a supplemental IDS herewith. The fitting described therein is a plastic fitting, not metal, notwithstanding the drawings of that reference. There is no apparent suggestion that the insert 2 bites into the hose, and more importantly there would be no case hardening of a plastic insert (although the office action is silent on the rejection of claim 1 as to the recital of case hardening, it is presumed that the Examiner takes the position that Kreidel teaches case hardening as to claim 1.)

The present application is deemed to be in proper condition for allowance and favorable action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: March 28, 2005



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